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FIRST GIRLS' SCHOOL IN NORTHERN TIKRIT BUILT AND OPENED BY V CORPS SUPPORT BATTALION

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TIKRIT, Iraq -- In addition to its hefty support mission here, the Soldiers of V Corps' 701st Main Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division have found the time for another satisfying task here -- sponsoring the Al Barudy Primary School and the Al Barudy School for Girls.



COURTESY 701ST MAIN SUPPORT BATTALION
Capt. Stephanie Tisdale commander of V Corps' Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 701st Main Support Battalion, hands out school supplies and toys in the Al Barudy School for Girls in Tikrit, Iraq. The 701st MSB sponsored the construction of the new girls' school.

Battalion officials call building and opening the first girls' school in northern Tikrit "one of their finest achievements" here.

"The smiles and excitement coming from the Iraqi girls attending school for the first time are priceless," said Capt. Nelson So, commander of the battalion's E Company.

"It's great to know that we are directly contributing to building their future by building this school."

The 701st MSB didn't complete the project on its own, however. Contributions of school supplies came from the Wuerzburg (Germany) American Middle School, which

is also sponsored by the 701st. The school put together packages of school supplies for their Iraqi counterparts.

"The local community in Wuerzburg helped to brighten the lives of many Iraqi students and helped the future of Iraq through their charitable of donations" of pens, pencils, paper, rulers, staplers, paper clips, folders, markers, and backpacks from their American counterparts in Germany, said Maj. Mark Simerly, the 701st's executive officer.

Key leaders from the 701st conducted a patrol to the schools to deliver the much-needed supplies and show support for the local people, while battalion Soldiers spoke with school staff and passed out donations to the children, while also providing security for the event.

"The girls were very interested in speaking to the female officers, and had many questions about their leadership roles in the U.S. military," said 1st Lt. Scott Preusker, the battalion civil affairs officer. "Their appreciation for our support is evident by the shouts of joy and glee that come from the children that gathered around the Soldiers and trucks once they arrived at the schools. The children laughed and screamed and gave the Soldiers thumbs up or even a patriotic salute to show their gratitude."

"As the 701st continues to strive for excellence in every day missions, it will continue to strive for excellence for the Iraqi people.

